

Stephanie say: "I warned you about making a mess, young man. Now you are going to stay in all day until you clean it all up." She stepped over the point in question and got a rag from the bathroom and threw it to me. I was so dumbfounded that I almost didn't catch it. I remembered almost slipping in this carpeted hall the night before and now I saw why. "How anyone could make such a mess," Aunt Stephanie said, "but you're going to clean it all up."

In a daze I went to my knees, and with Aunt Stephanie lording over me, I began to scrub at the slimy, evil-smelling green ichor that clung to the carpet. Bewildered and frightened, I lifted my eyes and followed the horrid green trail as it left the hall, went down the stairs, and turned out of sight. I hoped, hoped to God that Aunt Stephanie would leave and not make me follow the trail to its end.

All I could think of was curled Christmas garland that looked like rubber.

plink-a-plunk

Annie Klausing

piano flunkie
cookie dunking
neighborhood punking
piano bench sitting
baby sitter hitter
kitty cat swinger
wrong note singer
held by the ear
by his mother dear
fingers plunking keys
far from pleasing
but better than a beating